



Washington State Commission on

Asian Pacific American Affairs

Leader in  
ADVOCACY

[Website](#) | [Commissioners](#) | [Services](#) | [Legislation](#) | [Events](#) | [News](#) | [Contact Us](#)

## E-Legislative Update

February 21 - 27, 2011



We are in the seventh week of the legislative session and committee hearings in the House and Senate are picking up in momentum. Legislative committees are increasing in pace because the last day to read in committee reports in the house of origin with the exception of the House fiscal committees, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees will occur.

You have an opportunity to testify on a bill. If you cannot appear before a committee, [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Because the state budget is an overarching issue, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs will provide updates on important milestones in budget development as well as focus on bills that impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration. To learn more about the current budget, you can attend the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance committee hearings.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs will be providing information weekly through our e-legislative update and website on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview highlighting a few bills of interest to the community while our website hosts a more extensive list of bills utilizing a [bill tracking](#) feature for those community members seeking more information. Highlights from the previous week can be viewed on [TVW's](#) Legislative Review.

You may also access our [policy briefing papers](#) which examine issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. This week's [featured brief](#) is on *"Expanding Opportunities in Economic Development for Asian American and Pacific Islander Businesses."*

**Special Highlights:** At center stage is the state budget, with a deficit of up to 500 million remaining for the 2011 budget, and a projected deficit of over 5 billion for the 2011-2013 biennial budget. To put 5 billion dollars in perspective, closing all community and technical colleges would save the state only 1.4 billion, and eliminating all state funding for WSU and UW would save the state only 1 billion.

The following budget items support a large number of communities of color, immigrants, and refugees in Washington State:

- Apple Health for Kids, administered by the Department of Social and Health Services, is a health insurance program for children of low income families.
  - The Basic Health Plan administered by the Health Care Authority, provides affordable insurance coverage for low income people who do not have access to health care through employment, nor qualify for medicaid or medicare.
  - Community Health Clinic Grants, support clinics that provide medical and dental care to patients who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and have no other health care coverage such as Medicaid or Basic Health Plan.
  - State Food Assistance Program, administered by the Department of Social and Health Services, provides food stamps for low-income families.
  - I-BEST, Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training program offered at community and technical colleges, provides workforce training for students in English as a Second Language or in Adult Basic Education courses. This program gives students literacy and workplace skills at the same time.
  - Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Pathway Employment Services provides immigrants employment placement assistance, English as a Second Language training, job skills training, job search workshops, and job retention services.
  - Medicaid Interpreter Services, administered by the Department of Social and Health Services, supports medical providers in communicating with Medicaid clients, required under federal civil rights laws.
  - Naturalization Program, administered by the Department of Social and Health Services, provides services that prepare low-income refugees and legal immigrants for U.S. citizenship testing.
  - Opportunity Grants for 1st Generation College Students, provides eligible students in community and technical colleges to receive academic and financial support for GED, Adult Basic Education, Adult High School Completion or English as a Second Language students if they are interested in training for employment in high wage, high demand industries such as health care, computer electronics, early childhood education, and construction.
- 

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you.

## Education

### Early Learning & K-12 Education

**2/21/11 1:30 pm**

Senate Full Committee  
Senate Hearing Rm 1  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

#### Public Hearing:

1. [SB 5792](#)- Authorizing creation of innovation schools and innovation zones in school districts.
- 

## Economic Development

## **Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection**

**2/21/11 10:00 am**

Senate Full Committee  
Senate Hearing Rm 4  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

**Public Hearing:** Requesting that the United States Department of Labor provide Washington with unemployment tax relief equal to any benefit provided to other states [S-1575.1].

## **Ways & Means**

**2/21/11 3:30 pm**

Senate Full Committee  
Senate Hearing Rm 4  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

### **Public Hearing:**

1. [SB 5404](#) - Authorizing community economic revitalization board funding to benefit innovation partnership zones.
2. [SB 5524](#) - Creating an exemption from impact fees for low-income housing.
3. [SB 5645](#) - Concerning the existing surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance.

Information is current as of: February 17, 2011.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.

**CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.**

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).